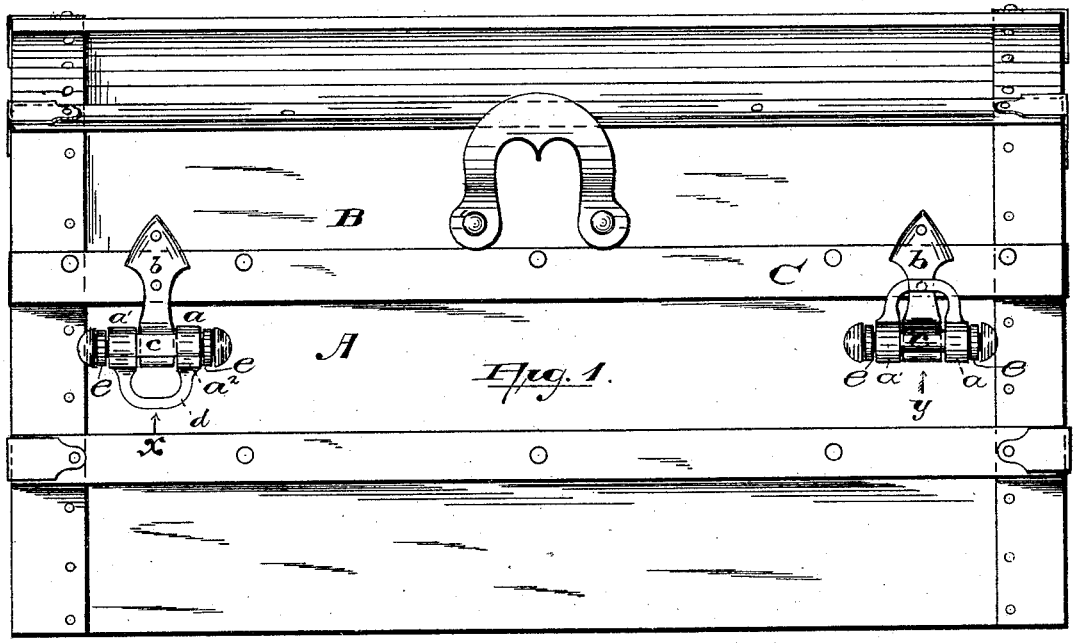
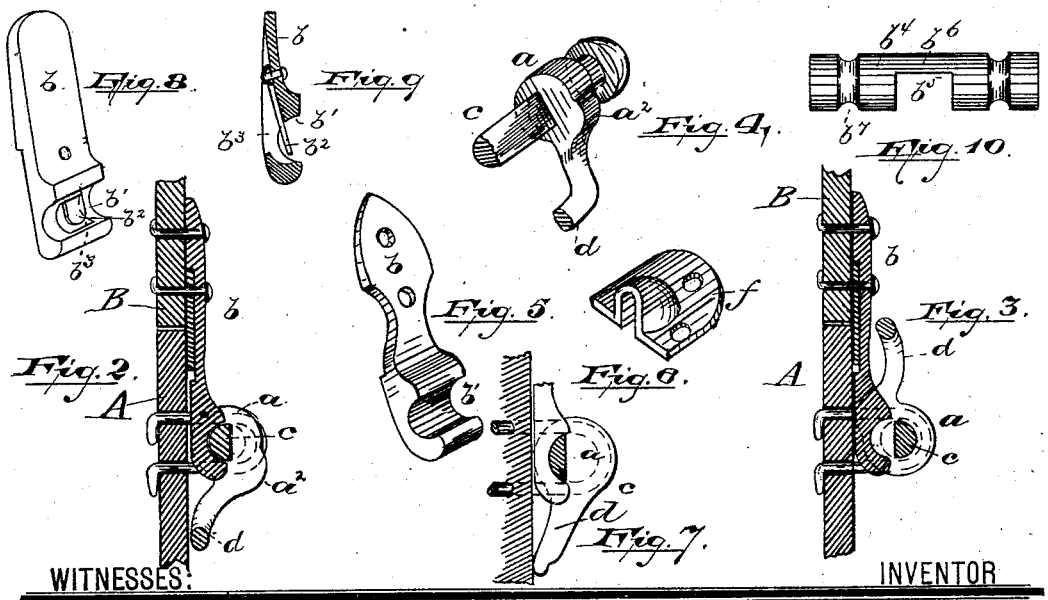
(Model.)

T. A. DENNIS.

TRUNK CATCH.

No. 342,502. Patented May 25, 1886.





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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

THEODORE A. DENNIS, OF NEWARK, NEW JERSEY, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF TO GEORGE B. JENKINSON, OF SAME PLACE.

TRUNK-CATCH.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 342,502, dated May 25, 1886.

Application filed March 4, 1886. Serial No. 193,961. (Model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, THEODORE A. DENNIS, a citizen of the United States, residing at Newark, in the county of Essex and State of New Jersey, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Trunk-Catches; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to letters of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

In said drawings, Figure 1 is a side elevation of a trunk to which the improved catch is attached. Fig. 2 is a sectional view through line *x* of one of the catches, showing the relation of the parts when the catch is in its holding position. Fig. 3 is a similar view illustrating the releasing position of the catch, the said view being taken on the line *y* in Fig. 1. Fig. 4 is a perspective view of a portion of the pivoted catch shown in Figs. 1, 2, and 3. Figs. 5 and 8 are perspective views of the grooved catching-hook which is secured to the trunk-lid, Fig. 8, having a spring projecting into the groove. Fig. 6 is a perspective view of a cap. Fig. 7 is a sectional view, illustrating a modified form of the pivoted catching-bar. Fig. 9 is a vertical section of the lower end of the catch shown in Fig. 8, and Fig. 10 is a top view of the simplest form of the pivoted catching-bar.

In the above-described views similar letters of reference are employed to indicate corresponding parts.

The object of the invention is to provide a trunk-catch of simple and economical construction and of positive and effective operation, the same consisting of a trunk-catch constructed and arranged substantially as indicated in the drawings, and described and claimed hereinafter.

A in the views indicates the trunk-body; B, the lid thereof, and C the valance. To the lid is secured a hook, consisting of a plate, *b*, which extends downward below the valance, and is provided with a recess or groove, *b'*, therein, with which the catching-bar, attached to the body of the trunk, engages when the said bar is operated to fasten the lid and body of the trunk together. The said groove may be of any shape; but is preferably semicircular, as indicated in the drawings. Should it be considered desirable, a spring, b^2, may be so arranged as to press against the catching-bar to prevent any disengagement of said bar from the groove while the trunk is being roughly handled. As indicated in Figs. 8 and 9, the hook is recessed and a spring-piece, b^2, secured in or at the back thereof, projects through the recess b^3, substantially as shown.

The pivoted or rotating catching-bar may be made in a variety of ways, several of which are illustrated in the drawings, Fig. 10 showing the simplest form of the bar, which consists of a cylindrical body, b^4, recessed at b^5, leaving a segmental portion, b^6, which engages with the groove in the hook. Annular grooves b^7 may be made in the bar, which receives the staples by which the bar is pivotally secured to the trunk. By turning the bar so that the segmental portion b^6 clears the groove in the hook, the recess b^5 permits the upward passage of the said hook therethrough as the lid is lifted. This form of the catching-bar may be provided with a suitable finger-piece for rotating the same.

In Figs. 1, 2, 3, and 4 is illustrated a form of the catching device having two plates, *a a'*, formed eccentrically or with a bulging portion, a^2, as in Figs. 1, 2, and 4 above mentioned, or without said portion a^2, as shown in Fig. 7. Connecting said plates is a catching-bar, *c*, which enters into holding engagement with the groove in the hook *b* when operated for that purpose, and may connect the centers of the plates and be thrown from its holding engagement with the hook by the eccentric or bulging portion a^2 engaging with the trunk-body when the bar is turned, as indicated in Fig. 3, or may extend between the plates *a a'* off the centers thereof, as in Fig. 7, and disengaged from the hook by the simple rotation of the said plates by the finger-piece *d*.

The catching-bar may be of any form in cross-section, either circular or rounded, polyhedrical, or segmental, as desirable. The segmental form, as illustrated in the drawings, is considered preferable, as the arc or curved

portion readily engages the groove b', in the hook, while the flat side allows the hook to pass when that side is turned toward the said hook.

The rotating catching-bar may be pivotally secured to the trunk by staples *e*, by caps *f*, or in any well-known manner. The projecting or bulging portion a^2 not only serves to throw the catching-bar away from the hook, but also holds the finger-piece away from the trunk, as indicated in Fig. 3. The same result may be effected by forming the end of the finger-piece as shown in Fig. 7, both of these constructions being designed to allow the insertion of the finger between the piece *d* and the trunk to throw the said finger-piece down into its fastening position. (Shown in Figs. 2 and 7.) The disengagement of the bar from the hook is effected by simply turning the said bar by means of the finger-piece until the bar clears the groove in the hook, thus permitting the passage of the hook through the recess or opening in the catching-bar and the lifting of the lid of the trunk. The reverse of this operation, after the lid has been closed, restores the catching-bar to its holding engagement with the hook.

The pivotal motion of the catching-bar, as will be evident from the foregoing description, is in an axial line at right angles to the line of movement of the hook toward and from the said bar, thereby securing the resisting strength of the bar throughout its entire length. The catching device—both the bar and hook—is, further, of the utmost simplicity in construction having no complicated arrangement of parts which are liable to become disarranged, and because of its simplicity the parts can be made very strong and durable.

Having described the invention, I wish to claim the following:

1. In a trunk-catch, the combination, with a hook provided with a groove, of a rotating catching-bar turning pivotally in an axial line at right angles to the line of movement of the hook toward and from said bar and engaging with the groove in said hook when in its fastening position, and having a recess therein, in which, when said catching-bar is rotated and disengaged from the hook, permits the passage of the said hook therethrough, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

2. In a trunk-catch, the combination, with a hook having a groove therein, of a rotating segmental catching-bar, the arc or rounded side of which engages with the groove in the hook when said catching-bar is in its fastening position and which clears the said hook when said bar is rotated and the flat side of the same is turned next to the grooved hook, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

3. In a trunk-catch, the combination, with a hook having a groove therein, of a rotating catching-bar extending between annular plates *a a'* off the axis of rotation thereof and turning therewith, said bar being thrown into engagement with the grooved plate, and disengaged therefrom by the rotation of the annular plates, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

4. In a trunk-catch, the combination of a hook having a groove therein, a segmental catching-bar, annular plates provided with a bulging portion or projection thereon, and formed integral with the catching-bar, and a finger-piece formed on said annular plates, all said parts being arranged and operating substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

5. In a trunk-catch, the combination of a hook having a recessed groove therein, and a spring projecting into said groove through the recess therein for the purpose set forth, a rotating catching-bar having a recess, b^5, therein, the portion b^6 of said bar engaging with the grooved hook, which, when the said bar is turned from its holding engagement, is free to pass through the said recess b^5 in the bar, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing I have hereunto set my hand this 5th day of January, 1886.

THEO. A. DENNIS.

Witnesses:
CHARLES H. PELL,
FREDK. F. CAMPBELL.